

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 CU-04 SIL-01 LAB-06 AF-10 ARA-16

EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 /198 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1310

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE DENOUNCES ROKG

REF: SEOUL 7982

1. ON WEEKEND OF NOV 23-24, THE KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (NCCC) JOINTLY HELD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE CONFERENCE WAS CHAIRED BY KIN CHAE JUN, DEAN OF PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND CHAIRMAN OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL. OTHER PROMINENT PERSONALITIES INCLUDED CARDINAL KIM SOO-HWAN; DR. PAEK NAK CHUNG, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF YONSEI UNIVERSITY; DR. KIM OK-GIL, PRESIDENT OF EHWA UNIVERSITY; LEE TAE YUNG, (WIFE OF NDP NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN CHONG IL HYUNG); YANG HO-MIN, EDITORIAL WRITER FOR CHOSEN ILBO; AND AMERICAN METHODIST MISSIONARY EDWARD POITRAS.

2. AS CHURCH LEADERS HAD INDICATED IN ADVANCE, THE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING LEADING CLERGYMEN, WOMEN
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LEADERS, JOURNALISTS, LAWYERS, AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS,

USED THE OCCASION TO ATTACK ROKG FOR REPRESSIVE POLICIES AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO DECLARE SOLIDARITY WITH CUFRENT STUDENT PROTESTS. THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN TO DRAFT AND APPROVE COMMON DECLARATION FOR PRESENTATION TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER IN VIENNA UNDER WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AUSPICES.

3. THE HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT ISSUED BY CONFERENCE DECLARES: A.) SINCE KOREAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF HUMAN RIGHTS, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY INCLUDING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, IT IS MISSION OF THE CHURCH TO STRUGGLE FOR THESE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS; AND B.) THE CHURCH MUST REPENT FOR ITS PAST INDIFFERENCE AND FAILURE TO ENGAGE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS. NOW THIS STRUGGLE MUST BECOME ITS FIRST PRIORITY.

4. THE CHURCH THEREFORE DEMANDS THAT GOVERNMENT:

A. RESTORE FREEDOM TO UNIVERSITIES, STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS AND CEASE SURVEILLANCE OF ACADEMIC COMMUNITY;

B. BROADEN WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND END USE OF PROSTITUTION FOR PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL TOURISM;

C. INSTITUTE JUST TREATMENT OF WORKERS AND ESTABLISH MINIMUM WAGES AND SOCIAL SECURITY; AND,

D. RESTORE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEED TO PEOPLE UNDER CONSTITUTION.

5. DECLARATION CONCLUDED THAT THE CHURCH HENCEFORTH WILL NOT ONLY CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE INDIVIDUAL SOUL, BUT ALSO WITH SALVATION OF SOCIETY AND WILL USE ITS RESOURCES TOWARD THAT END.

6. COMMENT: PROTESTANT SOURCES INDICATE THAT KOREAN CHURCHES INTEND TO USE DECLARATION AT VIENNA CHURCH CONFERENCE TO FURTHER PUBLICIZE THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPRESSIVE CHARACTER OF THE PARK GOVERNMENT.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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